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5K COACHES TURNED INTO COVID CARE UNITS, BUT ONLY 813 USED

Nearly ₹45 crore was incurred on converting non-AC railway coaches into isolation facilities, according to an RTI reply

₹90K AVG COST OF CONVERTING A COACH

On average, about ₹90,000 was spent on each of the 5,231 coaches, RTI replies received by *TNIE* from multiple railway offices revealed. The South Western Railway spent ₹3.55 crore on conversion of 320 coaches. Central Railway zone converted 482 coaches into isolation units for ₹3.74 crore. North Eastern Railway converted 217 coaches for ₹1.49 crore

PATIENTS RELUCTANT TO USE THEM

- Many Covid patients complained of extreme heat inside these coaches during May, June and July. This, the authorities said, was a reason why most of them were not used
- The converted coaches will be restored for passenger services once their requirement to serve as isolation centres is fulfilled

573

COACHES CONVERTED INTO COVID CARE UNITS BY SOUTHERN RAILWAYS

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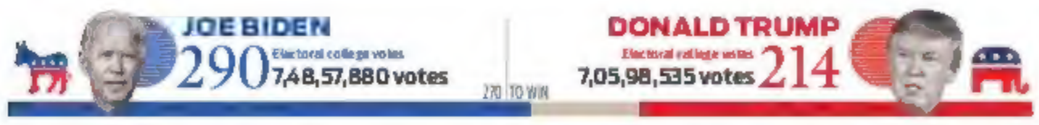

PRESIDENT BIDEN!

But Trump refuses to concede, threatens further legal action on ballot counting

President-elect Joe Biden and VP-elect Kamala Harris. (R) People in Washington DC cheer at the news of Biden's victory | AP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

AFTER four days of uncertainty and slow pace of vote counting due to a surge of mail-in votes, US media outlets on Saturday declared Joe Biden as the winner of the November 3 presidential elections.

The 77-year-old former US vice president will become the 46th president of the US, after a victory in Nevada and Pennsylvania, the state where he was born, put him over the 270 electoral votes needed to win.

Welcoming the victory call, Biden said, "America, I'm honored that you have chosen me to lead our great country. The work ahead of us will be hard, but I promise I will be a President for all Americans - whether you voted for me or not."

With Biden's victory, Kamala Harris has become vice-president-elect, the first time in history that a woman — an Indian-American one at that — has been elected to such a White House position.

Before becoming the Democratic presidential nominee, Biden served as vice president under former President Barack Obama. He is also Delaware's longest-serving senator.

Meanwhile, incumbent Republican President Donald Trump, 74, has not yet conceded defeat yet. "We all know why Joe Biden is rushing to falsely pose as the winner, and why his media allies are trying so hard to help him: they don't want the truth to be exposed. The simple fact is this election is far from over," Trump said in a hurriedly issued statement, indicating that the fight is far from over.

MORE REPORTS ON: P14

Nitish exit written all over

EXIT POLLS

243 Total seats | 122 Needed to win

PROJECTIONS				India Today-Axis
MGB	NDA	LJP	OTHER	MGB: 139-161 (150)
TIMES NOW C-VOTER				NDA: 69-91 (80)
120	116	1	6	LJP: 3-5 (4)
TV9 BHARATVARSH				OTHERS: 9
115-125	110-120	3-5	10-15	
REPUBLIC-JAN KI BAAT				Caste out?
118-138	91-117	5-8	3-6	Analysts feel economic factors may override caste preferences this time in Bihar
ABP-CVOTER				
108-131	104-128	1-4	4-8	
TODAY'S CHANAKYA				
180	55	0	8	
PEOPLE'S PULSE PROJECTIONS				
111	100	4	9	

(Margin of error - Plus or Minus Three per cent)

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NITISH Kumar's 15-year rule in Bihar is set to come to an end in Bihar and Tejashwi Yadav will be the next chief minister, three out of seven exit polls predicted on Saturday.

The projected tally for Rashtriya Janata Dal-led Mahagathbandhan (MBD), which comprises the Congress and several Left parties besides the Tejashwi Yadav-led RJD, ranged from 115 to 161 while 122 seats are needed to form government.

Most of the exit polls also predicted RJD to again emerge as the single largest party in the 243-member Assembly along with a clear dip in the seat tally of Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar-led JD(U).

While Today's Chanakya-CNN News18 projected 180 seats for the MBD, India Today-Axis My India poll gave the alliance between 139 and 161 seats, against 69-91 for the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance.

Counting of votes for the three-phase Bihar assembly polls, which ended on Saturday, will be held on November 10.

Exit polls are based on feedback from a limited number of voters in select areas.

In terms of vote share, Today's Chanakya projected 44 per cent for the RJD-led opposition alliance and 34 per cent for the NDA. However, ABP-CVoter projected a higher vote share for NDA at 37.7 per cent followed by the grand alliance with 36.3 per cent and 26 per cent for others.

P10

Exit poll says BJP will bag by-elections seats

Bengaluru: The ruling BJP is likely to win both Sira and RR Nagar assembly bypolls, as per an exit poll. BJP National Secretary C T Ravi, concurring with the exit poll, said the BJP's internal report as well as chief minister's intelligence report favour the party in both constituencies. "We will win RR Nagar by 25,000 lead and in Sira by 15,000," Ravi said.

MORE ON: P4

Officer raided, wardrobe full of gold found

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

KAS officer B Sudha could be the Imelda Marcos of Bengaluru. The local officer had a wardrobe full of gold jewellery that could put a jewellery showroom to shame, a la the former Filipino First Lady, who had row upon rows of high-end shoes, clothes and jewellery.

After a raid at Sudha's house on Thindlu Main Road near Kodigehalli on Saturday morning, Anti-Corruption Bureau officials came out with bags full of gold jewellery, Rs 10 lakh cash and documents pertaining to real estate properties.

Sudha, who was the land acquisition officer at Bangalore Development Authority, had acquired more assets than her salary could justify.

CONTINUED ON: P6

Government of Karnataka
Department of Electronics, IT, BT and S&T presents
BTS2020
BENGALURU TECH SUMMIT
19th - 21st NOV 2020
Dr. C.N. Ashwath Narayan
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Higher Education, Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology and Science & Technology, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship & Livelihood Department, Government of Karnataka interacting with
Shri. Kris Gopalakrishnan, Chairman, Vision Group on IT,
Dr. Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, Chairperson, Vision Group on BT
Shri. B. S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister
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Leanne Kemp, Government of Queensland
Dr. Renu Swarup, Secretary, DBT
Ajai Chowdhry, Co-founder, HCL
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Dr. Steve Jolly, Director, Lockheed Martin Corporation
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